

In July 2007, when my longtime chief of staff announced his intention to retire, Wally agreed to come out of retirement to serve as interim chief of staff during the transition period. Wally was no stranger to my office. Following a long career working for the National Rural Electric Cooperatives, he served as my state liaison for 6 years. In fact, Wally and I have a history of working together that spans back over 40 years when I was an intern in the office of Congressman Rolland Redlin and he was serving as the young chief of staff for the Congressman. Wally and I have been working together in one form or another ever since.

Wally came on board as my interim chief of staff and immediately provided the steady leadership that is crucial during times of change. During his tenure in my office, Wally has done an outstanding job of seeing my staff through personnel changes and legislative challenges, and has provided me the steady advice of a seasoned veteran. His work has been outstanding.

Finally, and most importantly, Wally Rustad is an outstanding person. He has never forgotten the small-town values he learned growing up Grenora, ND. He has worked quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes to make things happen and was always happy to divert credit to others. He has been tremendously loyal, dedicated, and a passionate advocate for the people of my State. He has never forgotten that he is working for the American taxpayer. And he has been a good friend and a mentor to others on staff.

With extraordinary gratitude for his time serving as my chief of staff, I wish Wally well as he returns home to his lovely wife Marlys. I have been blessed to have Wally as a trusted advisor and confidante but most importantly he has been a great friend. I wish him all the best as he returns to retirement and look forward to continuing our association for many years to come.

CONSTITUENT VIEWS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from Mr. Richard Morgan from Shavertown, PA, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DECEMBER 7, 2007.

Re: Congressional members

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SPECTER: My name is Richard H. Morgan. I reside at 145 Woodbine Road, Shavertown, PA. I am retired at 72 years of age and a military veteran of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard. I have been a Republican since 21 years of age.

On November 20, 2007 at 11 a.m., you returned my phone call. During our conversation I agreed to write a letter stating my views of the job the Senate has done. You agreed to read this letter on the Senate

floor. I told you I would really like to stand and talk in front of the Senate.

I am part of the great generation of people who lived, worked, and died for this country. I often wonder to myself where we as a society let our country go so wrong. We are not safe in our own country. I am not afraid of terrorists from other countries; I have greater fear from my own government. I would like to list a few examples.

First, congressional personnel do not live their lives as the working average middle class nor our lower class society. They think of us as uneducated. They may be right since we placed our trust in their hands and believed they would do the job right. I question too what has happened to the oath of office they took as a serious promise to us and God. The majority of Congress lacks integrity and humility. They are definitely not role models for our society. I know our country's business can be conducted better. I have no special interest groups to benefit by my vote.

Second, I have a problem concerning social security and how the word entitlements is used. It makes me feel like they are giving me personally a handout. The social security trust fund is completely funded by the citizens of the United States through payroll tax deductions and collected by the Internal Revenue Service. I must add that they are elected by citizens to manage these funds for us and not to fund other programs. So, I feel the word of entitlements should have reference to congressional perks, which are completely funded by tax paying citizens.

Finally, my third area of concern is the marriage of congressional members and corporate business. I am not sure if it's illegal, but I do know it's unethical. This has caused so much damage to my country. I have done the research on many programs such as the Bureau of Public Debt, Federal Accounting, and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

The answer to this whole problem is for all elected congressional members to gain a conscience or to resign from office.

Respectively,

RICHARD H. MORGAN.

RESTORING JUSTICE FOR BOOKER TOWNSELL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I want to take a moment to recognize a victory for the cause of justice, albeit one that is long overdue. In 1944, Booker Townsell, a private in the U.S. Army, was convicted of a crime in an unfair and racially biased trial, 63 years ago to this day. I join Booker Townsell's family in heralding the recent decision by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records to overturn this conviction and restore all rights lost as a result of the conviction. Although Booker Townsell is no longer with us, and no ruling can change the injustice that Booker Townsell suffered when he was wrongly convicted by the Army in 1944, I am pleased to see that the Army is rejecting the original decision handed down 63 years ago.

Despite the injustice he suffered, Booker Townsell displayed tremendous strength, and went on to lead a full life in Wisconsin, including raising a wonderful family. I am glad to see the tremendous weight of this conviction lifted from his family. It is due to their

valiant effort that this decision was finally overturned. I also thank Congressmen JIM McDERMOTT and DUNCAN HUNTER for putting vital pressure on the Army to review the 1944 decision. While it has taken far too long, 63 years later, justice has finally been restored to Booker Townsell and his family.

HONORING DENIS O'DONOVAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following resolution from the HELP Committee to be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows.

Resolution commending Denis O'Donovan with deepest sincerity for his dedicated and skillful work to improve the health and well-being of the American people.

Whereas Denis O'Donovan has served with distinction and skill for 10 years as Chief Clerk of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate;

Whereas Denis O'Donovan exemplifies the best traditions of selfless public service, having devoted 40 years to improving the lives of all Americans through service to the Senate;

Whereas Denis O'Donovan has met every Member of the Committee and their staffs with cheerfulness and consideration;

Whereas the faultless competence of Denis O'Donovan has enabled the Committee to function effectively under Chairmen of both parties;

Whereas Denis O'Donovan will begin a well-earned retirement next month; and

Whereas Denis O'Donovan may be gone as of this date, but he will never be forgotten by those who had the fortune to work with him: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate—

(1) commends Denis O'Donovan with deepest sincerity for his dedicated and skillful work to improve the health and well-being of the American people; and

(2) wishes Denis O'Donovan all happiness and fulfillment in retirement.

RETIREMENT OF PATRICIA KNIGHT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge the retirement from the Senate of a person of great skill and accomplishment, Patricia Knight. She will be greatly missed.

Trish has devoted more than a quarter century of her life to public service, the last nine years as chief of staff to my good friend and colleague, Senator ORRIN HATCH. Her leadership on so many issues over that time has improved the lives of millions of Americans in so many ways.

Over the years, Trish has brought her skills and energy to bear on a range of important issues from energy policy to foreign policy and so much more. She served in the Reagan administration and the first Bush administration as a key adviser on health legislation. She has been an aide on the Appropriations Committee covering bills as vast as funding for the Commerce Department and our foreign aid programs.